Deliberation of Meeting Outcomes:

Day 1 (Wednesday 11th October 2017)

Session 1: Review of Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF) Report

The Forum Secretariat presented the report of the review of the Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF) conducted by a group of consultants and completed in April 2017. The report highlighted key findings of the review in accordance to its terms of reference. Three major components of the review that were highlighted in the presentation were the engagement with the PEDF, the effectiveness of the PEDF in supporting national education development and status of education management information systems (EMIS) in the regional. The review made ten recommendations for consideration particularly in any consideration for a future regional education framework.

In their discussions, PHES noted the report together with its recommendations and for their consideration in the development of the new regional framework.

Session 2: The Regional Education Framework: Purpose, drivers and structure

This session started with a short presentation on the purpose of the REF developed at the previous PHES and what PHES wanted in and from such a framework. Recognition of what is already in the region that will support countries in achieving both the REF and SDG 4 nationally and regionally was provided. The focus on national plans was emphasized with the intent of the REF/SDG alignment to these in each country’s context. Participants identified where intersections occurred, within their context, between the draft REF and SDG4. They then considered how their own national plans for education connected with the REF/SDG4. Using these considerations participants shared in collective groups where they were progressing, where some support was needed and where significant input was required to address the outcome. Groups then identified opportunities for regional approaches considering both south-south collaboration and regional institutional/agency programmes as modalities.
Session 3: Monitoring the REF: Integrating REF and SDG 4 into National Monitoring – a seamless process

SPC and UIS provided a joint presentation on integrating REF and SDG 4 into National Education Monitoring and Decision-making. The presentation covered the data requirements for the REF priority areas, the education indicators relating to REF, the data sources for SDG4 and REF, country trends and challenges, and partnership and collaboration. An example of how EMIS developments need to integrate data across the education sector was provided by Palau. The meeting noted that there is a need to integrate into the national education sector plans the SDG 4 and REF indicators for reporting at national, regional and international levels.

Session 4: FEdMM 2017/18

The PHES received an update on the current regional reforms on the rationalization of meetings and implications for the discussions on the regional education programme, including the agenda for the next Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEdMM) and the working procedures.

PHES agreed to the continuation of the PHES Small Working Group in supporting the work on the development of the new REF, and requested that PIFS continue to facilitate these meetings, including securing of resources for the convening of these meetings. Noting the convening power of PIFS, and its role as the premium policy agency, PHES urged continued engagement of PIFS in supporting the coordination of regional work on education and skills development frameworks, and requested PIFS to facilitate the convening of the FEdMM and PHES meeting, back to back with the USP Council meeting in May 2018 to allow for the new REF to be finalised, including the associated monitoring and evaluation framework. The convening of future FEdMMs and associated work related to regional education frameworks and the roles of various agencies will be discussed at the next FEdMM.
Day 2 (Thursday 12th October 2017)

Pacific Café Discussion Report Back:

Theme 1 – Learning outcomes

Guiding national systems of assessment through regional initiatives and sharing of practices.

Valuing opportunities for south-south collaborations across education policies and how that translate to learning and teaching (e.g. PABER)

The dissemination utilization and analysis of data to inform decision making at all levels (from classrooms to systems)

Theme 2 – Skills development & pathways

The need to develop a Regional Priority for TVET from the minimum to the maximum qualification level to provide pathway from certificate to higher qualifications

The need to set up competency skills including soft skills for various categories of TVET

Education Management Information Systems to include information on TVET including the progress of students

Development of TVET programmes and consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders e.g. Ministers of Labour, industries and employers.

Theme 3 – Teaching profession

Alignment ECCE through to Primary competency framework, timely to review the regional teacher competency framework; so that it can be a developmental guide for countries and provide opportunity for south-south collaboration, for development and use of national standards; align national and regional teacher training institutions to the framework. Support professionalization of teachers and teacher mobility.

Value of research and how it can inform implementation of the REF; recommend a regional research funding mechanism tagged to the REF with PHES setting the research agenda with the intent to inform the phases of the REF. Building research capability in the country and teacher inquiry

Theme 4 – Quality and relevance

Need to reflect the environment of education. For example, family, community, traditional context and practices. This will “cultivate soil upon which to grow “REF coconut”.

Investigate ways countries can 1) utilize ICT in learning and teaching 2) ensure technological digital literacy.

Use data (EMIS and other) to inform decisions with regards to curriculum and learning and teaching practices.

Curriculum integration (teacher capacity building, contextual resources)